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## MEXICO.

*Report from Vera Cruz—Typhus fever in the City of Mexico.*

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, April 16, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report for the week ended April 13, 1901:

There has been 1 death from yellow fever, an American who died on the 12th of this month. The last death from the disease in this city was reported as occurring during the week ended February 16.

The diseases now prevailing in Vera Cruz are malaria, perniciousa, diphtheria, la grippe, and pneumonia. No cases of smallpox are reported.

The streets of the city are being kept remarkably clean by the municipal authorities, and they would make a very presentable appearance were it not for the open sewers. These sewers are swept and washed out every day, and are further freed from animal matter by the myriad army of vultures infesting this city.

At first one's sensibilities are rudely affected by the sight of these birds of prey, feeding with evident enjoyment upon the refuse matter of a city, but when it is understood that they are the most faithful of all scavengers, freeing the entire city of its daily accumulations, one begins to regard them as the guardians of the public health.

The elevation above the sea level is but 18 inches, and with the present sewerage system it would be impossible to rid the town of all animal and excrementitious matter without our winged scavengers.

During the week 6 vessels were given clearance for ports in the United States and Cuba, and 269 passengers were inspected and given certificates of health.

Passengers passing through Vera Cruz from the City of Mexico report the health conditions there as serious.

The mortality is certainly high, and there are a large number of cases of typhus fever.

The English-speaking community, I am told, has suffered but little from the disease, but among the lower classes it is widespread, and the fever wards of the Juarez Hospital are filled with patients.

The latest mortuary report that I have received from the City of Mexico gives, for the week ended March 30, 534 deaths from all causes and 43 deaths from typhus fever. This mortality is equivalent to a death rate of 78.21 per 1,000.

Respectfully,

D. E. DUDLEY,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure.]

*Mortality report for the week ended April 13, 1901.*

Yellow fever.....	1	Diphtheria.....	2
Perniciousa .....	2	La grippe .....	1
Malaria.....	2	Pneumonia .....	4
Tuberculosis .....	6	All causes .....	41